

Application Number 09/808,849
Response to Office Action mailed June 3, 2004

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Original): A method comprising:

identifying a technician responsible for adjustment of color characteristics of an image;
and

permitting an upload of the image to a web server if the technician satisfies a
qualification criterion.

Claim 2 (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein the qualification criterion includes a
minimum level of color adjustment skill.

Claim 3 (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein the qualification criterion includes a
minimum level of care in adjusting color characteristics of the image.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): The method of claim 1, further comprising assigning the
technician an upload password that permits the upload of the image if the technician satisfies the
~~color adjustment skill~~qualification criterion.

Claim 5 (Original): The method of claim 1, further comprising creating an image file
representative of the image, and including in the image file an indication of the identity of the
technician.

Claim 6 (Original): The method of claim 1, further comprising creating metadata for an image
file representative of the image, the metadata including an indication of the identity of the
technician.

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Claim 7 (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein the technician adjusts and uploads a plurality of images, the method further comprising auditing the images uploaded by the technician to assess quality of the adjustments.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): The method of claim 1, further comprising:

- qualifying the technician for upload of the image if the technician satisfies the ~~color~~ adjustment-skill qualification criterion;
- creating an image file representative of the image;
- including in the image file an indication of the identity of the technician;
- identifying the technician by reference to the indication;
- auditing the image to assess quality of the adjustments made by the technician;

and

revoking the qualification from the technician in the event the assessed quality is unacceptable.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): The method of claim 1, further comprising:

- qualifying the technician for upload of the image if the technician satisfies the ~~color~~ adjustment-skill qualification criterion;
- auditing the image to assess quality of the adjustments made by the technician;

and

revoking the qualification from the technician in the event the assessed quality is unacceptable.

Claim 10 (Original): The method of claim 1, further comprising adjusting the color characteristics of the image to more closely approximate the appearance of a physical item.

Claim 11 (Original): The method of claim 10, wherein the physical item is a retail item offered for sale via the web server.

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Claim 12 (Original): The method of claim 10, further comprising:

making further adjustments to the color characteristics of the image based on color response characteristics of a display device associated with a client; and
downloading the adjusted image from the web server to the client via a computer network.

Claim 13 (Original): The method of claim 12, further comprising guiding the client through a color profiling process via one or more web pages to estimate the color response characteristics of the display device.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): A computer-readable medium containing instructions that cause a programmable processor to:

identify a technician responsible for adjustment of color characteristics of an image; and
permit an upload of the image to a web server if the technician satisfies a ~~color adjustment skill~~qualification criterion.

Claim 15 (Original): The computer-readable medium of claim 14, wherein the qualification criterion includes a minimum level of color adjustment skill.

Claim 16 (Currently Amended): The computer-readable medium of claim 14, wherein the qualification criterion includes a minimum level of care in adjusting the color characteristics of the image.

Claim 17 (Currently Amended): The computer-readable medium of claim 14, wherein the instructions cause the processor to assign the technician an upload password that permits the upload of the image if the technician satisfies the ~~color adjustment skill~~qualification criterion.

Claim 18 (Original): The computer-readable medium of claim 14, wherein the instructions cause the processor to create an image file representative of the image, and include in the image file an indication of the identity of the technician.

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Claim 19 (Original): The computer-readable medium of claim 14, wherein the instructions cause the processor to create an image file representative of the image, and create metadata for the image file, the metadata including an indication of the identity of the technician.

Claim 20 (Original): The computer-readable medium of claim 14, wherein the technician adjusts and uploads a plurality of images, and the instructions cause the processor to audit the images uploaded by the technician to assess quality of the adjustments.

Claim 21 (Currently Amended): The computer-readable medium of claim 14, wherein the instructions cause the processor to:

- qualify the technician for upload of the image if the technician satisfies the ~~color~~
~~adjustment skill~~qualification criterion;

- create an image file representative of the image;

- include in the image file an indication of the identity of the technician;

- identify the technician by reference to the indication;

- audit the image to assess quality of the adjustments made by the technician;

and

- revoke the qualification from the technician in the event the assessed quality is unacceptable.

Claim 22 (Original): The computer-readable medium of claim 14, wherein the instructions cause the processor to:

- qualify the technician for upload of the image if the technician satisfies the color
adjustment skill criterion;

- audit the image to assess quality of the adjustments made by the technician;

and

- revoke the qualification from the technician in the event the assessed quality is unacceptable.

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Claim 23 (Original): The computer-readable medium of claim 14, wherein the instructions cause the processor to adjust the color characteristics of the image to more closely approximate the appearance of a physical item.

Claim 24 (Original): The computer-readable medium of claim 23, wherein the physical item is a retail item offered for sale via the web server.

Claim 25 (Currently Amended): The computer-readable medium of claim 2423, wherein the instructions cause the processor to:

make further adjustments to the color characteristics of the image based on color response characteristics of a display device associated with a client; and

download the adjusted image from the web server to the client via a computer network.

Claim 26 (Currently Amended): The computer-readable medium of claim 2425, wherein the instructions cause the processor to guide the client through a color profiling process via one or more web pages to estimate the color response characteristics of the display device.

Claim 27 (New): A method comprising:

creating image files representative of respective images;

including with the image files an indication of an identity of a technician responsible for adjustment of color characteristics of the images;

permitting upload of the images to a web server if the technician has a qualification level that satisfies a minimum level of color adjustment skill;

performing an audit of at least some of the images to assess quality of the adjustments made by the technician; and

updating the qualification level of the technician based on the audit.

Claim 28 (New): The method of claim 27, further comprising revoking the qualification from the technician in the event the assessed quality is unacceptable.